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TS Hunt Jan 26 1879

Montreal, Jan 20. 1879.  
Dear Lesley.

I have just returned from a two weeks journey in Ontario & Ohio, or I should have written you sooner. Your kind letter about the Univ. of Virginia professorship was received just as I left. but I was so hurried that I neglected to reply at once thanking you therefor. In my present circumstances I do not feel disposed to undertake such a task, much as I should have desired it a few years since. I am not forced to do it now for bread. & my wife does not care any more than myself, to seek a new home among strangers. We are no longer young you know. Besides, there now grows up a competing business, which I

must be free to take advantage of - I hope for much more from the Coal & Iron lands of Southern Ohio, with which I have been identified, and which I have just been visiting.

As to the first Chair I wish with all my heart that it could be given to W. M. Fontaine. From all I see there is no young man who has anything like his grasp or conception of the great problems of American geology.

It is his own state too & if you can agree with me, I wish you would advise me what to do in the matter.

I spent a few hours with Hall in Albany on Saturday & he was well agreed with me as to the fitness of Fontaine for the post. I do not know F.'s address if you do will you kindly send him a word telling him what

I think & feel in the matter -

I wrote you some weeks since about the Paris Congress & your report of your remarks. I have a second letter from the Secretary, Delaire, complaining that he has nothing from you or from Cope. The latter has written me that he has lately sent a resume of his paper to the Secretary - I hope you have done the same.

I go to Boston on Saturday for a few days - and shall hope to see you in Philadelphia about the middle of February - when I expect to go to Baltimore for the Mining Congress. My wife is very well. With best regards to Mrs. Lesley & your family I am  
Dear Lesley

Always yours  
Prof. V. P. Lesley -  
T. Perry Hunt.